

Apdo. Postal 11-372
México 11, D.F.

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

Mr. Michael Krinsky U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
National Lawyers Guild Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
30 East 42nd St. ☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
New York, N.Y. 10017 Exemption(s): _____

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Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full
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Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

Dear Mr. Krinsky:

I appeal to you, with the prestige of your institution, to intercede on behalf of my husband, Andrés Cultelli, who is in an extremely dramatic situation. He is a citizen of Uruguay and was arrested in Argentina since March 31, 1975. He was savagely tortured for several days (I'm enclosing his testimony) and this was duly denounced before international organizations at the time.

I have just received the following information regarding his case:

A) Andrés Cultelli is accused, before the Argentinian Federal Justice, of the charges of using false documents and of unlawful contacts or gatherings. The Department of Migration decided to expell him from Argentina but the danger lies in the possibility of being sent back to Uruguay. The resolution for his expulsion was dictated in the file No. 48.950/75 and carries the No. 02189.

B) Cultelli was accused of the above mentioned crimes by the Federal Prosecutor who determined 5 years of prison for him. However, the Federal Judge has just dictated a sentence imposing 14 years of prison. The law that is being applied to him is No. 20.840 (Security Law) and the maximum that this law provides is 8 years of prison. Consequently this sentence is irrational and out of proportion.

C) It is convenient to note that the Judge that dictated the sentence as well as the Chamber of Appeals that will intervene at the time the appeal is made have been appointed by the present military Junta and that the torture inflicted upon my husband took place under the previous regime, that of Isabel Perón. (This distinction may be useful in addressing the present government authorities).

D) Cultelli has no personal defense lawyer. Moreover, in Argentina today there are hardly any lawyers left that dare defend political prisoners since many of them have been assassinated, kidnapped or arrested. It is therefore important to alleviate my husband's situation trying to find him an independent lawyer who is connected to an international organization.

I would like to add that Cultelli has never belonged to any Argentinian political organization, for this reason the alleged crime of unlawful contacts is objectionable. In Argentina he never participated in any crime of blood. Neither did he participate directly or indirectly in any time of action that could be considered a crime by the judicial order. When he was arrested he was disarmed and had no connections with weapons. Besides, last year, political prisoners with similar charges against them were not deprived of their freedom for more than one year (considering the reduction of the sentence based on the prisoner's conduct).

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On the other hand, I must point out that if my husband were to serve the Judge's sentence, it would mean a death sentence, due to his age (55 years old) and to his bad state of health. Due to a progressive eye ailment, he has lost his left eye and his right eye's vision is less than 9 in dioptries.

I address myself to you because I firmly believe that international pressure -especially from institutions like yours- has proved to be the most efficient and successful means of saving many people's lives and obtaining the freedom of those who, like my husband, may otherwise die in jail.

I therefore appeal to you to send a cable or a letter to:

- 1) General Jorge Videla, Presidente de Argentina, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2) Cámara de Apelaciones de la Plata, República Argentina.
- 3) Ministro de Justicia, Ministerio de Justicia, Buenos Aires, Argentina

asking for the release of Andrés Cultelli and his transfer to another country -other than Uruguay.

This must be done before the end of November if it is to have desired effect.

My husband is now imprisoned at: Unidad Carcelaria No. 2, en Sierra Chica, partido de Olavarría, Provincia de Buenos Aires, República Argentina.

I, and my four daughters, will greatly appreciate your help.

Sincerely yours,

M. J. de Cultelli

Isabel de Cultelli.